

SERIAL No. Unassigned
GROUP No.: Unassigned

Remarks

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

The specification has been amended to include headings in accordance with US practice.

Claims 1-11 have been amended to eliminate the phrase "characterized by," and any lack of antecedent basis. As such, claims 1-11 have been clarified by amendment for purposes of form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-11 are neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentability as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the amendments to claims 1-11 do not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 1-11.

Consideration and allowance of application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

8-22-01
Date



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